

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 00524 120708Z

16

ACTION EA-10

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R 120620Z MAR 75
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TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6107
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS SYDNEY 0524

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BTIO, AS

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRAM: COAL, RAILWAY AND TUNNEL, WOLLONGONG

REF : (A) STATE A867

(B) SYDNEY 0508

1. B.H.P. LTD. HAS DECIDED TO MAINTAIN SUPPLIES OF COAL TO ITS PORT KEMBLA STEELWORKS FROM ITS OWN MINES ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ESCARPMENT. THIS WILL IMPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY THAT WILL PASS THROUGH AN EIGHT MILE TUNNEL.

2. CONSULTING ENGINEERS APPOINTED FOR THE PROJECT ARE SNOWY MOUNTAINS ENGINEERING CORPORATION (SMEC) OF COOMA, N.S.W. MR. P.G. COLLINS, ACTING DIRECTOR. SMEC ARE AT PRESENT MAKING FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT TENDERS WILL BE CALLED EARLY 1976. COMPLETION EXPECTED IN 1978.

3. THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE TECHNOLOGY AND THE VERY LATEST TUNNELING EQUIPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED. TUNNEL IS EXPECTED TO COST OVER 30 MILLION DOLLARS. ROLLING STOCK AND ALL OTHER RAILROAD EQUIPMENT WILL BE NEEDED.

4. SYDNEY 0508, MARCH 11, 1975 REQUESTING INFORMATION ON US EXPERIENCE WITH DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES IN LONG TUNNELS PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE EARLY CONTACT
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WITH THE PROJECTS'S PLANNERS.

5. POST CONSIDERS THIS EARLY PREVIEW WILL PROVIDE
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR US PARTICIPATION.
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